

# LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

## MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the  
Council of the Borough  
held at 7.30 pm on 20 February 2012

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor David McBride**

**The Deputy Mayor  
Councillor Reg Adams**

### Councillors

Graham Arthur	John Getgood	Ernest Noad
Douglas Auld	Julian Grainger	Gordon Norrie
Kathy Bance MBE	Ellie Harmer	Tony Owen
Jane Beckley	Will Harmer	Tom Papworth
Julian Benington	David Hastings	Ian F. Payne
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	Brian Humphrys	Sarah Phillips
Ruth Bennett	William Huntington-	Neil Reddin FCCA
Eric Bosshard	Thresher	Catherine Rideout
Katy Boughey	John Ince	Charles Rideout QPM CVO
Lydia Buttinger	Russell Jackson	Richard Scoates
John Canvin	David Jefferys	Colin Smith
Stephen Carr	Charles Joel	Diane Smith
Roger Charsley	Paul Lynch	Tim Stevens
Peter Dean	Diana MacMull	Michael Tickner
Robert Evans	Mrs Anne Manning	Pauline Tunncliffe
Roxhannah Fawthrop	Russell Mellor	Michael Turner
Simon Fawthrop	Alexa Michael	Stephen Wells
Peter Fookes	Nick Milner	
Peter Fortune	Peter Morgan	

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair  
The Mayor  
Councillor David McBride

### 37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Judy Ellis, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, David Jefferys and Kate Lymer. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Pauline Tunncliffe.

**38 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were confirmed.

**39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were advised that under the Code of Conduct they would not have a prejudicial interest in setting the Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government and Finance Act 1992.

The following additional personal interests were declared:

Councillor Simon Fawthrop declared an interest in relation to item 13 (Motion: Extension of Selective Academic Education) as he had a child attending a grammar school in the Borough. Councillor Roxanna Fawthrop also declared a similar interest as she had a sister attending one of the grammar schools in the Borough. Councillor Grainger also declared an interest in relation to item 13 (Motion: Extension of Selective Academic Education) as he had two sons at St Olave's Grammar School and was also a Governor of the School. He also had a daughter at Newstead Wood Grammar School and his wife was an independent school auditor. Councillor Papworth declared an interest in respect of item 9 (Council Tax 2012/13) as his wife was Treasurer of the Friends of Crystal Palace Park. Councillor Sarah Phillips declared an interest in relation to item 13 (Motion: Extension of Selective Academic Education) as she had two children at Grammar Schools in the Borough. Councillor Reddin also declared an interest as a non LEA appointed Governor of St Olave's Grammar School.

**40 PETITIONS**

Members were informed that there were no petitions to report to this Council Meeting.

**41 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There was one member of the public who attended to ask an oral question at the meeting, details of which are attached as Appendix A to the Minutes.

**42 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

These are attached as Appendices B and C.

**43 STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL,  
PORTFOLIO HOLDERS OR CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

a) Public Health

The Portfolio Holder for Resources updated members on the position in Bromley in respect of the transfer of responsibility for Public Health to the

Council's control. Non acute care and community services would be transferring to the Council's control with the merger of Social Services and Community Services from next year. In preparation for this major step a shadow Health Board had been operating bringing together the elements of public health and establishing the model for taking things forward. The Health and Wellbeing Board had pooled its resources both in terms of finance and staffing. The shared agenda had been informed by the first Joint Needs Assessment and a Public Health Director had been appointed as a shared post. Next month the 40 plus remaining staff of the PCT structure would transfer to the Council's site. Whilst welcoming the changes the Portfolio Holder highlighted that the finance attached to this was still unclear. Indicative figures had been released with Bromley allocated a very meagre amount. There were significant variations in the funding ranging from £20 per head at the lowest end to £122 at the highest. Funding for the current year was still held by the PCT and they had been cooperating closely with the Council to ensure a smooth transition. There was also a move towards a closer commissioning process to build on joint expertise. The Portfolio Holder stressed the need to watch the situation closely and to state clearly that we would not take on any responsibility which was not properly funded. Bromley was joining with London Councils to call for a minimum grant per head to ensure fairness and also to receive a realistic slice of the total fund. Councillor Arthur would be attending a pan London event the next day to assess the progress that had been by each Borough and he was pleased to say that Bromley was some way ahead of other boroughs due to a mixture of shared functions in previous years and the willingness of Health Partners to bring a positive and fresh attitude to the table. There were no questions on the Statement.

b) Bromley Valley Gymnastics Centre

The Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation informed members of his recent visit to the Bromley Valley Gymnastics Centre in Cotmandene. Councillor Morgan reported that he and his wife had attended a gymnastics display at the Centre, which he had not know about before, and had been very impressed by the high standard of skill of the club members. They had members ranging from the age of 3 years up to senior class who were trained to the very highest of levels and the club had won national and international competitions. It was a privately run club attracting a wide membership and did not receive any form of subsidy from the Council. The premises they used were a former school gymnasium which they rented from the Council. Councillor Morgan went on to mention some of the successes of the Club and wanted to highlight what these young people were doing. The coaches and organisers gave of their time and talent and Councillor Morgan wanted to record the Council's thanks and best wishes for the club's future. The Mayor advised that he had also attended a display at the Club which was one he had known about for some years and endorsed Councillor Morgan's statement. There were no questions on the Statement.

**44 BUDGET (REVENUE AND CAPITAL) AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING - REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 1st FEBRUARY 2012**

**1) Council Tax 2012/13**

A report of the Finance Director amending the recommendations of the Executive meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 concerning the Council Tax 2112/13 had been circulated which included the position on levies as follows:

	£'000
London Pension Fund Authority	453
London Boroughs Grant Committee	459
Environment Agency (Flood Defence etc.)	217
Lee Valley Regional Park	385
Total	1,514

The Mayor drew attention to recent technical changes arising from the Localism Act that had to be taken into account in the way the budget requirements were presented and the revised legal implications that had been circulated at the Executive meeting and re-circulated for this meeting.

A Motion to receive and adopt the recommendations, including the revised recommendations of the Executive, was proposed by Councillor Carr and seconded by Councillor Colin Smith. During his introduction to the Motion, the Leader of the Council was pleased to announce that arising from underspends on this year's budget it would be possible to fund a series of one-off initiatives next year further details of which would be made available following this meeting.

The following amendment to the recommendations of the Executive (as amended by the Finance Director) was proposed by Councillor Papworth and seconded by Councillor Adams -

"The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2012/13 and indicative budget for 2013/14:

2.1 (b)

- xvii) that the savings of £500k per annum from 2013/14 relating to older people's day care do not proceed (ref 32);
- xviii) that the savings of £50k in 2012/13 and £100k per annum from 2013/14 relating to support planning and brokerage service for ineligible users (ACS) do not proceed (ref 38);
- xix) that the savings of £75k per annum from 2013/14 for mental health day and support services do not proceed (ref 39);

- xx) that the savings of £49k per annum from 2013/14 relating to street scene and green space parks do not proceed (ref 18);
  - xxi) that the savings of £50k per annum from 2012/13 relating to SEN and inclusion do not proceed (ref 22);
  - xxii) that the savings of £45k per annum from 2012/13 relating to safeguarding and social care do not proceed (ref 25);
  - xxiii) that the savings of £25k in 2012/13 and a further £50k per annum from 2013/14 (total of £75k from 2013/14) relating to learning and development do not proceed (Executive February 2011 and ref 17);
  - xxiv) that the savings of £90k per annum from 2013/14 relating to the amalgamation of the Penge and Anerley libraries do not proceed (ref 38);
  - xxv) that the savings relating to children's social care workforce of £25k per annum from 2012/13 do not proceed (appendix A);
  - xxvi) that the following savings, totalling £46k, used to offset reductions in Community Safety Grant, as part of the 2012/13 Budget, by the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder do not proceed:
    - 1. Safer Neighbourhood Grants (£3k)
    - 2. Operation Payback (£9k)
    - 3. Discretionary Fund to finance specific projects
    - 4. Crime Prevention Communication Budget
- (£25k)
- (£9k)

(NB. ref number relates to Appendices 5 (B) and (C) of the "Draft 2012/13 Budget and Update on Council's Financial Strategy 2013/14 2015/16" report to Executive in January 2012. Item (xxv) is included with the summary in Appendix 5A).

- 2.1 (m) That the pension fund deficit annual costs in the budget be reduced by £241k in 2012/13 and £1,055k per annum from 2013/14 due to alternative up-front funding of £2.4m in 2012/13 and a further £8.1m in 2013/14 to be financed from the Council's 2011/12 underspends (£2.0m), 2012/13 council tax freeze grant (£3.3m), the Council's Invest to Save fund (£4.8m) and general reserves (£0.4m). Should the final outturn position in 2011/12 result in further underspends, the call on general reserves will reduce.

As a consequence of the changes above the existing recommendations, after allowing for the report of the Finance Director re item 9, be amended as follows:

Recommendation 2.1 (b)

That the draft 2012/13 Budget and indicative budget for 2013/14 be approved allowing for the amendments identified above.

Recommendation 2.1 (m)

That a one off payment of £2.4m in 2012/13 and a further £8.1m in 2013/14 be made towards the Council's pension fund deficit which will be financed from the Council's 2011/12 underspends (£2.0m), 2012/13 council tax freeze grant (£3.3m), the Council's Invest to Save fund (£4.8m) and a budgeted withdrawal from general reserves (£0.4m). Should the final outturn position in 2011/12 result in further underspends, the call on general reserves will reduce."

**On being put to the vote this Amendment was LOST.**

The following amendment to the recommendations of the Executive (as amended by the Finance Director) was proposed by Councillor Getgood and seconded by Councillor Fookes –

"The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2012/13 and indicative budget for 2013/14:

Recommendation 2.1:

(b) Proceed with the following savings:

- i) £138k in 2012/13 and £250k per annum from 2013/14 relating to "reduced highways planned maintenance" (ref. 4);
- ii) £190k in 2012/13 and £250k per annum from 2013/14 relating to minor carriageway/patching repairs (ref. 5);
- iii) £268k per annum from 2012/13 relating to footway minor maintenance (ref. 7);
- iv) Continue with an increase in parking charges to raise additional income of £458k per annum from 2012/13;
- v) £259k in 2012/13 and £489k per annum from 2013/14 relating to grounds maintenance (ref. 13);
- vi) £61k in 2012/13 and £184k per annum from 2013/14 relating to green waste satellite sites (ref. 16);
- viii) £300k per annum from 2012/13 relating to kerbside collections (ref. 30);
- xii) £50k in 2012/13 and £100k per annum from 2013/14 relating to Bromley Youth Music Trust (BYMT) grant (ref. 34);
- xiii) That further work be undertaken to achieve additional savings in the BYMT grant over the next two years; (N.B. ref. number relates to Appendix 5 (C) of the "Draft 2012/13 Budget and Update on Council's Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2015/16" report to Executive in January 2012).
- xvii) Reducing Portfolio Holders to 5 (plus the Leader), retain allowances for 3 Executive Assistants only (CYP and ACS), remove allowances for Vice-Chairmen, SRA for Chairmen of Development Control and GP&L become same as allowances for PDS

Committees, reduce allowances for leaders of minority parties (reduced to £4k and £3k) and remove individual higher level of SRA for members on individual committees providing savings of £54k from 2012/13.

- xviii) Do not proceed with savings relating to Citizens Advice Bureau of £32k in 2012/13 and £73k in 2013/14 (reported to Executive on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011)
- xix) Provide additional funding to support early years and school improvement at a cost of £1,288k in 2012/13 rising to £1,822k from 2013/14.
- xx) There is no net impact on the 2012/13 Budget and indicative 2013/14 Budget as the savings will be fully offset by the additional costs identified in (xviii) and (xix) above.

(m) That a sum of £2m be set aside from the Council's 2011/12 underspends to address environmental issues and partly mitigate against the impact of proceeding with the savings identified in (b) above;

As a consequence of the changes above the existing recommendations, after allowing for the report of the Director of resources re item 9, be amended as follows:

**Recommendation 2.1 (b)**

That the draft 2012/13 Budget and indicative budget for 2013/14 be approved allowing for the amendments identified above.

**Recommendation 2.1 (m)**

That a sum of £2m be set aside from the Council's 2011/12 underspend as an earmarked reserve to support environmental issues and partly mitigate against the impact of proceeding with the savings identified in (b) above."

**On being put to the vote this Amendment was LOST.**

**The recommendations of the Executive (as amended) were, after debate, put to the vote and CARRIED as follows:-**

**Recommendation (2.1)**

**(b)(xv) Reduce the provision for unallocated inflation by £977k to reflect the latest projections of inflation levels.**

(c) A contingency sum of £7,127k be approved incorporating the changes in (b) above.

(g) The revised provisions for levies, as shown in the table above, be included in the budget for 2012/13.

(h) It sets a nil increase in Bromley's council tax for 2012/13 compared with 2011/12 and a 1% reduction in the GLA precept (overall council tax reduction of 0.2%) as shown in 2.2 and 2.3 below.

(i) Notes the final position on the GLA precept, as accepted by the London Assembly on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

**Recommendation (2.2)**

**Council Tax 2012/13 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).**

Subject to 2.1 (a) to (l) above, the formal Council Tax Resolution as detailed below be approved, with the total Band D Council Tax as follows:

	2011/12 £	2012/13 £	Decrease %
<b>Bromley</b>	<b>991.31</b>	<b>991.31</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>GLA</b>	<b>309.82</b>	<b>306.72</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1301.13</b>	<b>1298.03</b>	<b>0.24</b>

**Amended Recommendation (2.3)**

4. To note that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the council's area as indicated in the table below.

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2012/13 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY**

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
660.87	771.02	881.16	991.31	1211.60	1431.89	1652.18	1982.62

**GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY**

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
204.48	238.56	272.64	306.72	374.88	443.04	511.20	613.44

**AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS**

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
865.35	1009.58	1153.80	1298.03	1586.48	1874.93	2163.38	2596.06

**2) Capital Programme Monitoring Quarter 3 2011/12 and Annual Capital Review 2012-2016**

A Motion to approve the recommendations on the Capital Programme was duly proposed and seconded.

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**45 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR RESOURCES - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2012/13**

A Motion to approve the Treasury Management Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2012/13, including the prudential indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement was duly proposed and seconded.

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**46 MINOR CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

A Motion approving the minor changes to the Council's Constitution as proposed was moved, seconded and adopted.

**47 MEETING OF URGENCY COMMITTEE ON 23RD JANUARY 2012**

A Motion to note the decisions made by the Urgency Committee was moved, seconded and adopted.

**48 MOTIONS**

Notice of one Motion had been received as follows:

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP and seconded by Councillor Wells:-

“This Council notes that the Secretary of State for Education has indicated that existing selective schools may expand their provision by the creation of satellite campuses;

it further notes that parents in the neighbouring district of Sevenoaks, with the support of the local Member of Parliament, Michael Fallon and members of Kent County Council, are actively pursuing such an option;

further notes that demand for places by Bromley parents at the two selective schools within the borough and for places in neighbouring authorities far outweighs the number of available places;

resolves to support, in principle, any move by either of the two selective schools in the borough or by schools in neighbouring districts (including independent selective schools) to provide additional selective places in Bromley and particularly in those parts of the borough most distant from existing provision of selective places.”

**On being put to the vote this Motion was CARRIED.**

#### **49 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The additional Council Meeting in March and the change of date of the April Council Meeting as set out below were noted:

- a) An additional Council Meeting had been called for Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to primarily consider actions required by the Council arising from the Localism Act.
- b) The meeting of the Council shown on the published programme of Meetings scheduled for Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012, which was at the beginning of the week of the Greater London Authority elections, had been moved to Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012.

#### **50 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor thanked everyone who had supported the Quiz Evening on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012 when between £1300 to £1500 was raised.

It was reported that the Deputy Mayor had arranged for a Barn Dance to be held in the Great Hall, Civic Centre on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May, full details would be publicised shortly.

The Mayor referred to the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to the Borough on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and advised that he would write on the Council's behalf sending the congratulations of the Borough in respect of Her Diamond Jubilee celebrations. A more formal resolution would be taken at the March Council Meeting.

The Meeting ended at 10.41 pm

Mayor